

March 3, 1994      LB 647A, 647

SPEAKER WITHEM: The McKenzie amendment is adopted. We're back to consideration of the bill itself, discussion on the bill. I see none. Senator McKenzie, closing?

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to remind you now what the bill will do. Number one, it will create a full-time position within the state department for a consultant for high ability learners. Number two, it will allow school districts to apply through the Education Innovation Funds for seed money to begin or to enhance programs that currently exist. And, number three, it will require that school districts identify those high ability learners. Remember, it is not going to...that section of identification will not begin until 1997. And the fourth thing it will do now is allow the local district and parents and teachers some leverage and some mandated language in statute that says, if we have funds, we shall provide programs or services. So just for your clarification that's what LB 647 will do. I'd like to do a lot more but I think this is a good first step for addressing the needs of these students and would ask for your vote to advance. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: You've heard the closing. The question is, shall LB 647 be advanced? All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance LB 647.

SPEAKER WITHEM: LB 647 advances. LB 647A.

CLERK: LB 647A offered by Senator McKenzie. (Read title.) Senator McKenzie would move to indefinitely postpone the A bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM: There is a motion on LB 647A to indefinitely postpone. Senator McKenzie is about to attempt to give a very persuasive argument on the need to indefinitely postpone her bill. Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I offer this motion to indefinitely postpone based on conversations with members of the State Department. They have, in fact, if you remember from the argument earlier, had funds and a half-time position for a number of years. In the past three or four years, they have made a decision to allocate 30 percent of those funds to